



Lucena Clinic CAMHS

Child Safeguarding Statement



Lucena CAMHS Service is a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provided by the Saint John of God Community Services c/o and funded by the HSE. We provide assessment and treatment to young people under age 18 presenting with moderate to severe mental health difficulties.

Lucena Clinic has a responsibility to promote the safeguarding and welfare of children and to help protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm and neglect as outlined in the **Children First Act (2015)**.



1. **Key points of Lucena CAMHS Commitment to Safeguard Children :**

- The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for Lucena CAMHS.
- Every staff member has a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that every child/young person availing of our service is safe and protected from harm.
- Policies and procedures have been developed to promote safe environments for children and young people; to mitigate the potential for risk to arise, and to manage it safely where it does arise.
- The policies and procedures outlined in this Child Safeguarding Statement apply to all staff (employees, students, trainees, volunteers, contractors and any other person) performing any role or function in, or on behalf of this service.

2. Risk Assessment

This Child Safeguarding Statement was informed by a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. The risks applicable to this Child Safeguarding Statement are:

1. Risk of harm to a child by a staff member or volunteer.	Controls <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment & selection procedure• Reporting Procedure• Code of Behaviour for staff• Trust in Care Policy• SJOGCS Child Protection and Welfare SOP 2022 - adopted from HSE Policy 2019.• Policies, Protocols and Guidelines regarding safe practice
2. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), visitor or member of the public (includes on-line risk and co-location).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervision/accompaniment/public access policies.• Staff supervision and training• Reporting procedure• Policies, protocols and guidelines regarding safe practice
3. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a staff member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff information, supervision and training• Reporting Procedure• Legal consequences of not reporting• Mandatory Reporting
4. Risk of harm to a child due to a child protection or welfare concern not being recognised or reported by a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child friendly Safeguarding Statement• Staff training in effective communication with children and recognising signs of abuse.
5. Risk of harm to a child due to not implementing the Children First Act 2015 and/or related guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal consequences of not reporting• Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons• Safeguarding Implementation & Monitoring Group• Designated Liaison Person in place
6. Risk of harm due to access to on-line inappropriate/illegal material which may include explicit or violent contents, access to ICT (e.g. social media and electronic contact) and risk of harm to a child from the use/misuse of digital images/unauthorised photography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SJOGCS ICT Policies• No access to WIFI for service users• Lucena Guidelines on Video conferencing• Child Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring Group• Photography and recording is not permitted in Lucena Clinic CAMHS

Note: The definition of harm in relation to a child is: 'assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child'

The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment carried out by Lucena lists the procedures and control measures that are necessary and/or in place to mitigate any risks identified. Where necessary, risks are managed in line with the SJOGCS Integrated Risk Management Policy. Queries regarding the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment carried out by this service for the purpose of developing this Child Safeguarding Statement should be directed to the named relevant or Contact person.

3. Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed with due regard to, and in accordance with, the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), Tusla Child and Family Agency Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement. The following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of this service:

- "An Introduction to Children First" mandatory eLearning training for all Lucena staff;
- SJOGCS SOP 2022 & the HSE Child Protection and Welfare Policy 2019 which has been adopted by the Lucena Clinic.
- Recruitment policies to ensure the selection and recruitment of staff who are suitable to work with children (includes Garda Vetting Policy 2020);
- Trust in Care Policy and related procedures to investigate an allegation made against a staff member;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons.
- Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person (See named person below)
- HSE Incident Management Framework 2020 and a SJOGCS Policy aligned to this Framework has been adapted by SJOGCS Board and implemented in Lucena CAMHS Clinics to inform management of any incident where a child has been harmed while availing of the service; .
- HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy and a SJOGCS Policy aligned to this has been adapted by SJOGCS Board to assess and manage any risk of harm;
- Code of Conduct 2022
- ADHD Treatment Framework implementation –March 2022
- Medication Management Policy
- ICT Policies
- Guideline on Working Alone with Children in SJOG CMHS
- Absent Without Permission Policy
- The Joint Protocol for Interagency Collaboration between the HSE & TUSLA 2020
- Policy on the Prevention and Management of Work-Related Aggression and Violence 2018 (HSE)
- National Consent Policy 2022
- Whistleblower/Protected Disclosure Policy 2022

4. Governance

The CEO of SJOG Community Services and the Director of Community Mental Health Services has operational responsibility for ensuring Child Safeguarding Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are completed in its 'relevant' service. Governance is supported through the Quality & Safety function, clinical governance and the Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring Group.

5. Implementation

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 17.05.2025 or as soon as practicable, if there has been any material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Relevant Person:

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Contact Person:

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